



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

TEXAS ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL
3701 KIRBY DRIVE STE 1288
HOUSTON TX 77098

DWC Claim #:
Injured Employee:
Date of Injury:
Employer Name:
Insurance Carrier #:

Respondent Name

LIBERTY INSURANCE CORP

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 01

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-11-0395-01

MFDR Date Received

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "The claim presented by the Provider was billed in the same manner and at the same rates that it would bill any health plan, insurer, or other medical bill payor. There is no evidence provided by the carrier that the disputed charges were not billed at the hospital's usual and customary rate. The issuance of an Explanation of Benefits is not evidence of an audit or proof of the validity of the carrier's reduction methodologies. It represents nothing more than a carrier's substitution of figures that it likes better than the usual and customary charges that this Provider uses for all payors. **This claim is an attempt by the Carrier to circumvent the express provisions of the DWC's Hospital Facility Fee Guideline for outpatient services...** In closing, it is the position of the Provider that all charges relating to the admission of this claimant are due and payable and not subject to the improper reductions taken by the carrier in this case. The carrier's position is incorrect and in violation of the Hospital Facility Fee Guidelines."

Amount in Dispute: \$9,752.46

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Liberty Mutual believes that Texas Orthopedic Hospital has been appropriately reimbursed for services rendered to [injured worker] for the 10/08/2009 through 10/09/2009 dates of service."

Response Submitted by: Liberty Mutual Insurance, 2875 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30504

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
October 8, 2009 – October 9, 2009	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$9,752.46	\$3,396.83

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, titled *Hospital Facility Fee Guideline – Outpatient*, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for facility services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203, titled *Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services*, sets out the reimbursement for guidelines for professional medical services.
4. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits dated November 30, 2009 and January 10, 2010

- E480 – Please provide the appropriate CPT Code, HCPCS Code, or state-specific code for this service and resubmit for payment.
- X901 – Documentation does not support level of service billed.
- Z652 – Recommendation of payment has been based on a procedure code which best describes services rendered.
- P303 – This service was reviewed in accordance with your contract.
- Z547 – This bill was reviewed in accordance with your fee for service contract with First Health. This reimbursement may reflect payment at rates less than your discounted contract rate in accordance with your PPO Network contract and our access agreement with them.
- Z710 – The charge for this procedure exceeds the fee schedule allowance.
- U849 – This multiple procedure was reduced 50%% according to fee schedule or usual and customary guidelines.
- U634 – Procedure code not separately payable under Medicare and or fee schedule guidelines.
- K598 – Claim has been re-evaluated based on additional documentation submitted; no additional payment due.

Issues

1. Did the respondent support the insurance carrier's reasons for reduction or denial of services?
2. What is the applicable rule for determining reimbursement for the disputed services?
3. What is the recommended payment amount for the services in dispute?
4. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced or denied disputed services with reason codes P303 – “This service was reviewed in accordance with your contract” and Z547 – “This bill was reviewed in accordance with your fee for service contract with First Health. This reimbursement may reflect payment at rates less than your discounted contract rate in accordance with your PPO Network contract and our access agreement with them.” Review of the submitted documentation finds no information to support a contractual agreement between the parties to this dispute. Consequently, the services in dispute will be reviewed per applicable Division rules and fee guidelines
2. This dispute relates to facility services performed in an outpatient hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403, which requires that the reimbursement calculation used for establishing the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register with the application of minimal modifications as set forth in the rule. Per §134.403(f)(1), the sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 200 percent, unless a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement of implantables. Review of the submitted documentation finds that separate reimbursement for implantables was not requested.
3. Under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), each billed service is assigned an Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) based on the procedure code used, the supporting documentation and the other services that appear on the bill. A payment rate is established for each APC. Depending on the services provided, hospitals may be paid for more than one APC per encounter. Payment for ancillary and supportive items and services, including services that are billed without procedure codes, is packaged into payment for the primary service. A full list of APCs is published annually in the OPPS final rules which are publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website. Reimbursement for the disputed services is calculated as follows:
 - Procedure code J2250 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no

separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.

- Procedure code J2001 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
- Procedure code J0460 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
- Procedure code J7120 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
- Procedure code C1713 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
- Procedure code 80048 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Payment for this service is calculated according to §134.203, the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services. The fee listed for this code in the applicable Medicare fee schedule is \$12.36. 125% of this amount is \$15.45. The recommended payment is \$15.45.
- Procedure code 85018 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Payment for this service is calculated according to §134.203, the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services. The fee listed for this code in the applicable Medicare fee schedule is \$3.46. 125% of this amount is \$4.33. The recommended payment is \$4.33.
- Procedure code 85014 has a status indicator of A, which denotes services paid under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403(h), for outpatient services for which Medicare reimburses using fee schedules other than OPPS, reimbursement is made using the applicable Division fee guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided. Payment for this service is calculated according to §134.203, the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services. The fee listed for this code in the applicable Medicare fee schedule is \$3.46. 125% of this amount is \$4.33. The recommended payment is \$4.33.
- Procedure code 29826 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple procedure discounting. The highest paying status T APC is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 100%. This service is classified under APC 0042, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$3,251.11. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$1,950.67. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9934 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,937.79. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$1,300.44. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$3,238.24. If the total cost for a service exceeds 1.75 times the OPPS payment and also exceeds the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800, the outlier payment is 50% of the amount by which the cost exceeds 1.75 times the OPPS payment. Per the OPPS Facility-Specific Impacts file, CMS lists the cost-to-charge ratio for this provider as 0.179. This ratio multiplied by the billed charge of \$2,655.34 yields a cost of \$475.31. The total cost of all packaged items is allocated proportionately across all separately paid OPPS services based on the percentage of the total APC payment. The APC payment for this service of \$3,238.24 divided by the sum of all APC payments is 49.17%. The sum of all packaged costs is \$4,578.64. The allocated portion of packaged costs is \$2,251.24. This amount added to the service cost yields a total cost of \$2,726.54. The cost of this service exceeds the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800. The amount by which the cost exceeds 1.75 times the OPPS payment is \$0.00. The total APC payment for this service, including outliers and any multiple procedure discount, is \$3,238.24. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$6,476.47.
- Procedure code 29827 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple procedure discounting. The highest paying status T APC is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 50%. This service is classified under APC 0042, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$3,251.11. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$1,950.67. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9934 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,937.79. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$1,300.44. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$3,238.24. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including outliers and any multiple procedure discount, is \$1,619.12. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$3,238.24.

- Procedure code 29807 has a status indicator of T, which denotes a significant procedure subject to multiple procedure discounting. The highest paying status T APC is paid at 100%; all others are paid at 50%. This procedure is paid at 50%. This service is classified under APC 0042, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$3,251.11. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$1,950.67. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9934 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$1,937.79. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$1,300.44. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$3,238.24. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including outliers and any multiple procedure discount, is \$1,619.12. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$3,238.24.
 - Procedure code J0690 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2795 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J2405 has a status indicator of K, which denotes nonpass-through drugs and biologicals paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. This service is classified under APC 0768, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$0.24. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$0.14. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9934 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$0.14. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$0.10. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$0.24. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including outliers, is \$0.24. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$0.48.
 - Procedure code J1885 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
 - Procedure code J0735 has a status indicator of K, which denotes nonpass-through drugs and biologicals paid under OPPS with separate APC payment. This service is classified under APC 0935, which, per OPPS Addendum A, has a payment rate of \$109.75. This amount multiplied by 60% yields an unadjusted labor-related amount of \$65.85. This amount multiplied by the annual wage index for this facility of 0.9934 yields an adjusted labor-related amount of \$65.42. The non-labor related portion is 40% of the APC rate or \$43.90. The sum of the labor and non-labor related amounts is \$109.32. The cost of this service does not exceed the annual fixed-dollar threshold of \$1,800. The outlier payment amount is \$0. The total APC payment for this service, including outliers, is \$109.32. This amount multiplied by 200% yields a MAR of \$218.63.
 - Procedure code J3010 has a status indicator of N, which denotes packaged items and services with no separate APC payment; payment is packaged into payment for other services, including outliers.
4. The total recommended payment for the services in dispute is \$13,196.15. This amount less the amount previously paid by the insurance carrier of \$9,799.32 leaves an amount due to the requestor of \$3,396.83.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$3,396.83.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$3,396.83, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this Order.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

August 22 2012
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.